

Director's Words

Good data seems to be the dirty word in EMS. I guess that is why so many are attempting to avoid it. Just giving enough to be compliant may seem like a good idea, until you receive the subpoena. There are many different agencies, other than EMS agencies, seeking to make decisions based on EMS data. This data has been used for reviews of such industries as dialysis centers. EMS studies from all over the country have asked for our data. This industry is in dire need of good research to help promote EMS. Many organizations are attempting to get EMS into the mainstream of funding and recognition. Cutting corners and finding loopholes may save you time but you are hurting the entire industry when you do.

Our office is becoming more aware of continuing education hours being submitted but never conducted. I have been informed of some agencies allowing employees to sign onto a computer, simply click through the protocol updates and never read them or a training officer signing certificates without the employees actually sitting through a training class. While at this time we are considering these rumors, you only have to look to Massachusetts to see what the result may be. The state office, to my knowledge, has never had strict guidelines on continuing education. Please do not misuse the trust the state office has in all the providers in our state.

Some may feel EMS does not deserve a place at the table with other professions, but I think otherwise. I have experienced attitudes and behaviors that are becoming more professional. Hopefully, these traits will become more of the norm than the exception. If EMS personnel ever want EMS to become the profession it is capable, we must expect the best out of everyone, especially ourselves.

PLEASE NOTE:

Do you have questions for the OEMS&T Staff?

This is another reminder to those of you calling our Office (334-206-5383):

Complaints, Investigations - Call Mark Jackson

Service Inspections or Service Licenses - Call Hugh Hollon or Kem Thomas

Individual Training, Testing or Individual Licenses - Call Gary Mackey or Stephanie Smith

EMS for Children, Grants, Contracts, Equipment Orders – Call Katherine Hert

ANNOUNCEMENT



It is with a very heavy heart that the Office of EMS and Trauma announces Dr. John Campbell's retirement from his position as State EMS Medical Director.

From 1981-1985, Dr. Campbell served as Medical Director for SEAEMS (Alabama EMS Region 5), and was a member of the SEAEMS Council in 1986 and 1987. He then served the State of Texas in Region 7 and Service Area G as a member of their Trauma Systems Planning Committee and Regional Advisory Council from 1993-1995. During that time, he also held the position of EMS Medical Director for the Longview Texas Fire Department, Member of the City EMS Advisory Board and Online Medical Director for Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview, TX. He then returned to Alabama to chair the Medical Control Committee and serve as Medical Director for SEAEMS until 2005.

Dr. John E Campbell has served as Alabama's State EMS Medical Director since 2006 and was our Assistant State EMS Medical Director in 2005. He has served on the Alabama State Emergency Medical Control Committee (SEMCC) since 1996. He has chaired the Protocol Subcommittee since 2003 and has served as chair of SEMCC since 2006.

Dr. Campbell is also an accomplished author and will be greatly missed by the Office of EMS and Trauma and the entire EMS Community.

Reminder

The Office of EMS & Trauma would like to request that you comply with the requests for information from your regional office. Some Directors are still having issues receiving information and data as requested by the state office. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation and compliance.

Newsletter Reminder

The newsletter is free to anyone as long as they have internet access to our web page www.adph.org/ems. The newsletters can be found under the Notices and Events link found in the menu bar or to all Alabama licensed EMS personnel who have a **valid** email address. Our licensure database is used to store your last submitted valid email address, but cannot accommodate unlicensed people. They will have to visit our web site to view or download the newsletter.

If you are not getting our newsletter via email it is either because the email address was sent to us in an illegible or incorrect format or you changed it and did not update it through our office. You can email any changes via emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us or call office staff at 334-206-5383.

Also, you may have a spam blocker set up on your email. Our office has no way to manually or automatically address this issue. Multitudes of emails are “kicked back” to our office email system with message asking us to complete a number of tasks to be allowed to send you an email. As long as you have this set up on your pc, you will not be able to receive our newsletter.

Brunswick Woodmere Lanes Wants to Thank Montgomery and River Region EMS Providers

Brunswick Woodmere Lanes is very excited to have the opportunity to thank our Emergency Medical Service providers in Montgomery and the River Region area. Emergency Medical Technicians and all first responders save lives every day and Brunswick Woodmere Lanes would like to say a big, “Thank You!” Your discounted rate of 10% off bowling (*excluding: food, beverages, Pro Shop and Arcade) will begin this holiday season and continue throughout the entire year. We will also have future events specifically for our EMT, Fire Department, Police Department Sheriff Department and Military. You will be required to provide appropriate identification in order to receive the discounted rate. Check the Office of EMS and Trauma website often for future events and discounts available at Brunswick Woodmere Lanes.

Nerve Agent Antidote Kits

The ADPH Center for Emergency Preparedness began providing nerve agent antidote kits to emergency medical services personnel several years ago. Nerve agent antidote kits are still available for those agencies that fulfill the requirements to receive them. This is a voluntary program. Agencies requesting nerve agent antidote kits must develop a program and train their staff on the program and antidote kits including indications, dosage, storage, etc. Training documentation, which includes the signature of the agency's medical director, and a request form, must be submitted to ADPH.

The nerve agent antidote kits currently provided are the Duodote™ auto injectors which contain atropine 2.1 mg/0.7 mL and pralidoxime chloride 600 mg/2 mL.

- Duodote™ kits provided by ADPH are for responder self-use not patient use.
- Duodote™ kits distributed to Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers are assigned to the unit, not the individual.
- Duodote™ kits assigned to Basic Life Support (BLS) units are assigned to the individual (contact Alice Floyd for more information).
- In case there is a need to re-dose, three kits will be provided per position.
- Duodote™ kits are distributed to ALS providers via their affiliate hospital pharmacy.
- Duodote™ kits should be maintained at room temperature (77 degrees Fahrenheit).

Brief departures between 59-86 degrees Fahrenheit are permissible.

- Expired kits should be disposed of according to your organization's established policies and procedures and controlled substance plan. They are not to be returned to ADPH.
- Agencies are responsible to ensure their employees are trained on the proper indications, use, procedures/protocols, etc.

For more information, please contact Alice B. Floyd at 334-206-3898.

Provider Service News

Provider service renewal time is coming up for services in Region 1 (North), Region 3 (BREMSS), and Region 4 (West). The current license and/or ALS authorization for these agencies expire June 30, 2011. Renewal reminders will be sent out in the near future with important information and dates concerning the renewal process.

Thank goodness spring is here and the prospect of warmer weather. Our inspectors are out in the field, so don't delay in checking the air conditioning system in your units. Faulty air conditioning systems have been the number one reason for grounded transport vehicles.

Inspections have been going well. Several agencies have really stepped up and passed the inspection process with flying colors. On the other hand, we still are finding several agencies that have units with missing equipment and expired medications. In one instance, a service was found to have multiple expired medications with some of these medications out of date for over five months. Such findings will insure more frequent inspections for the agencies in the near future.

The OEMS&T would like to recognize two new services that have been licensed since the first of the year. The services are:

- **Transcare Ambulance Service in Red Bay, AL**
- **Troy Fire Department in Troy, AL**

Culture of Excellence

- **Alexander City Fire Medics**
- **Brantley Fire and Rescue**
- **Conecuh County EMS**
- **GEMS Ambulance**
- **Greenville Fire Department**
- **Haynes Ambulance of Troy**
- **Kellyton Volunteer Fire**
- **Lafayette EMS**
- **Lanett Fire and EMS**
- **Lincoln Fire and Rescue**
- **Luverne Rescue**
- **Margaret Fire and Rescue**
- **Odenville Fire and Rescue**
- **Oxford EMS**
- **Pell City Fire and Rescue**
- **RPS Talladega**
- **Riverside Fire and Rescue**
- **Stillwaters Volunteer Fire and Rescue**
- **Valley EMS**
- **Westinghouse EMS**
- **Winterboro Volunteer Fire and Rescue**

Compliance and Investigations Report

November 30, 2010 – February 28, 2011

NAME	COMPLAINT	RULE/PROTOCOL	ACTION TAKEN
Medstar EMS	ATCC Notification	Protocol 7.6	Remediation
Livingston Fire Rescue	ATCC Notification	Protocol 7.6	Remediation
Jeffrey Etris, EMT	Impairment	420-2-1-.21	Suspension
Anthony Snyder EMT-Paramedic	Patient Care Issue	420-2-1-.16	Remediation

All complaints filed with the Office of EMS and Trauma, are investigated. However, if no rule or protocol violation is found, the complaint will not be listed in the report.

Ground Vehicle Standards Report

November 30, 2010 - February 28, 2011

NAME	RULE/PROTOCOL	ACTION TAKEN
Anniston Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Reflectors/Flares, Burn Sheets, O ₂ Mask, IV Pressure Infuser, Patient Rain Cover	
	Expired Medications x 1	
Care Ambulance Pike County	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Emergency Lights	
Cherokee EMS	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Set, Flashlight, Triangle Bandages, On Board O ₂ , No Smoking Sign, Biohazard Bags, Goggles, Patient Restraints, Nasopharyngeal Airway, Oropharyngeal Airway, Abdominal Pads, Emergency Lights not Working, No Horn	
	Expired Medications x 12 Blood In Drug Box	
Childersburg Ambulance Service	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	ET Tubes, Biohazard Bags, Pulse Oximeter, No Activated Charcoal, Back Up Lights Not Working, Light in Patient Compartment Not Working, O ₂ Mask, Flashlight, Micro/Macro Drop Sets	
	Expired Medications x 3	
Clay County Rescue Squad	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Burn Sheets, O ₂ Mask, Flashlight, Patient Restraints, Floor in Patient Compartment Needs to be Repaired	
	Expired Medications x 1	
Coffee County EMS	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Emergency Lights Out on One Ambulance Unit	
Cleburne County EMS	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	O ₂ Masks, Loading Light Out, Emergency Lights Not Working on Ambulance Unit	
Fayette County EMS	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	None	
	Expired Medications x 1	

Goodwater Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	Long Backboard, Laryngoscope Blades, Oral Glucose Paste, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, ET Tubes, Glucose Meter, Pulse Oximeter, Stethoscope, Heater Not Working, Bench in Patient Compartment Needs to be Repaired	
Harpersville Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Reflectors/Flares	
	Expired Medications x 1 Missing Medications: Oral Glucose Paste	
Jacksonville Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	O ₂ Mask, BVM, Patient Rain Cover	
	Expired Medications x 1	
Marion County EMS	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	IV Catheters	
	Missing Medications: Activated Charcoal	
Moody Fire and Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Traction Splint, Burn Sheets, Syringes, IO Needles, Couple of Emergency Lights Out	
NorthStar Paramedic Services Talladega	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Long Backboard, Portable O ₂ , Portable Suction, Pulse Oximeter, Nasopharyngeal, O ₂ Mask, Sheets, Stethoscope, Urinal, No Activated Charcoal, Flashlight, Bed Pan	
	Expired Medications x 2	
Piedmont Rescue Squad	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 2
Deficiencies	Red Bags, O ₂ Mask, No Smoking Signs, Goggles, Loading Lights Out, Needles, B/P Cuff, Heat Not Working in Patient Compartment, Second for Emergency Lights Not Working	
	Expired Medications x 4	
RPS Moody	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 2
Deficiencies	Vaseline Gauze, O ₂ Mask, Emesis Container, Patient Restraints, Syringes, Siren and Horn Not Working	
	Expired Medications x 1	
Rural Metro Ambulance St. Clair	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Vaseline Gauze, Biohazard Bags, B/P Cuff, IV Pressure Infuser, O ₂ Mask, Shears, Load Light Not Working, No Smoking Sign, No Activated Charcoal, No Oral Glucose	
	Expired Medications x 11	

Springville Fire and Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Trauma Dressing, Vaseline Gauze, Triangle Bandages, Face Mask, O ₂ Mask, Activated Charcoal, Glucose Paste, Extra Batteries, Needles	
Sylacauga Ambulance	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Trauma Dressing, Vaseline Gauze, Pulse Oximeter, Reflectors/Flares, O ₂ Mask, Flashlight, B/P Cuff, No Activated Charcoal, No Oral Glucose, IV Pressure Infuser, Backup/Brake Lights, Fire Extinguisher, Loading Lights, Portable Suction	
	Expired Medications: IV Fluid	
Tallapoosa EMS	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	O ₂ Mask, Patient Rain Cover, IO Needles, Shears, Bed Pan, Assorted C-Collars, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment	
Vines Ambulance	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Nasopharyngeal, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, IV Catheters, Syringes, and CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment	
Westover Fire and Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Triangle Bandages, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Syringes, IO Needles, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment	